

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 10 and 12-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 5 and 9 have been canceled, Claims 1-4 have been amended and Claims 12-18 have been added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Baba et al. (U.S. Patent 6,085,598, herein "Baba").

Amended Claims 1-4 and new Claims 12-18 find support in the drawings as originally filed. For example, Figures 2A-2D and 3A-3C. No new matter is added thereby.

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baba. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a mounting structure that includes a vehicle electrical connection box that has a box-shaped body, a protruding member that is positioned to receive an impact from a first direction. The protruding member protrudes along the first direction from the electrical connection box. The protruding member includes a horizontal reinforcement rib along the first direction and a vertical reinforcement rib intersecting the horizontal reinforcement rib. The mounting structure also includes a breakable mounting member that protrudes from the electrical connection box. The breakable mounting member mounts the electrical connection box to a part of a vehicle and breaks due to a stress generated by the impact received by the protruding member.

In a non-limiting example, Figure 3C shows a vehicle electrical connection box 20 that has a box-shaped body, a protruding member 22 that is positioned to receive an impact from a first direction (the arrow). The protruding member protrudes along the first direction

from the electrical connection box 20. The protruding member includes a horizontal reinforcement rib 22a along the first direction (the arrow) and a vertical reinforcement rib 22b intersecting the horizontal reinforcement rib 22a. The mounting structure also includes a breakable mounting member (23, 24) that protrudes from the electrical connection box 20. The breakable mounting member (23, 24) mounts the electrical connection box 20 to a part of a vehicle and breaks due to a stress generated by the impact received by the protruding member.

By providing such a protruding member, an increased performance in an impact absorption of the protruding member is achieved and damage to an electrical connection box is further reduced (see specification, page 11, line 27 to, page 12, line 2). Claim 2 includes similar features.

On the contrary, Baba discloses the terminal 10 disposed in the connector 11 for conducting electrical signals from the sensor element 15 to an outside circuit (see column 4, lines 23-27, and Figures 2 and 3C). Baba further discloses that when a vehicle collides with backward obstacles, a collision impact is imposed in the direction “E” and the connecting member 21 breaks off. In return, the sensor portion 2 is separated from the mounting bracket 30 such that the inlet port 3 is protected from being broken by the collision impact (see column 5, line 66 to, column 6, line 12, and Figures 7B and 8). However, unlike the protruding member recited in amended Claims 1 and 2 of the present application, Baba does not disclose that the connector includes reinforcement ribs. Moreover, amended Claim 2 recites “... a protruding member protruding from the electrical connection box toward the dash panel” However, Baba discloses the connector protruding towards the back of a vehicle (see column 5, line 66 to, column 6, line 12, and Figures 7B and 8).

Turning to Claim 3 of the present application, amended Claim 3 is directed to a mounting structure that includes a vehicle electrical connection box that has a box-shaped body, breakable planar mounting members protruding from the electrical connection box that mount the electrical connection box to a part of a vehicle, and to break after the electrical connection box receives an impact. The breakable planar mounting members are positioned diagonally relative to the electrical connection box and extend substantially along a first plane.

In non-limiting examples, Figures 2A-2D illustrate a mounting structure that includes a vehicle electrical connection box 20 that has a box-shaped body 21, breakable planar mounting members (23, 24) that mount the electrical connection box 20 to a part of a vehicle, and to break after the electrical connection box 20 receives an impact P. The breakable planar mounting members (23, 24) are positioned diagonally relative to the electrical connection box 20 and extend substantially along a first plane.

Baba discloses the connecting member 21 formed on the cover 20 (see column 3, line 66 to, column 4, line 2), which is contrary to amended Claim 3 that recites "... said at least two breakable planar mounting members being diagonally positioned relative to the electrical connection box" Further, Baba further discloses that the connecting member 21 is integrally formed with the cover 20 and includes a bridging portion 22 and a head 23 (see column 4, lines 56-58), and the connecting member 21 is mushroom-shaped as a whole (see also Figure 4B). In addition, Baba discloses an alternative structure of a connecting member (321) that includes an upper plate 321a and a pair of bridging portions 322 formed on and integrally with the cover 320 (see column 7, lines 43-45 and Figure 10). Although Baba discloses one connecting member 21, 321, Baba does not disclose plural connecting members being positioned diagonally relative to the pressure sensor device 1.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1, 2 and 3 and each of the claims depending therefrom define over the cited art.

New Claims 12-18 depend from one of Claims 1, 2 and 3, which as discussed above is believed to define over the cited art. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new Claims 12-18 also define over the cited art for similar reasons discussed above.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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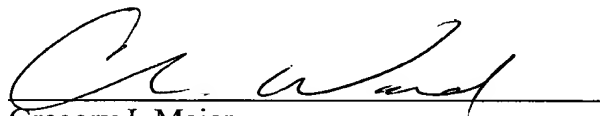
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